

We claim:



1. A method of transmitting data comprising the steps of:  
 channel coding an encoder packet to produce a channel coded encoder packet;  
 and  
 puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder packet to produce a first encoder sub-packet having a first size based on a size of the encoder packet and a first data transmission rate at which the first encoder sub-packet is to be transmitted.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data transmission rate is based on first channel conditions measured at a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first encoder sub-packet has a format which allows the first encoder sub-packet to be soft combined with a second encoder sub-packet derived from the same encoder packet as the first encoder sub-packet.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first encoder sub-packet is of a different size than the second encoder sub-packet.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the first encoder sub-packet is of an identical size than the second encoder sub-packet.
6. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:  
 adding a first encoder packet size identifier to the first encoder sub-packet indicating the size of the encoder packet from which the first encoder sub-packet was derived.
7. The method of claim 6 comprising the additional step of:  
 transmitting the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder packet size identifier at the first data transmission rate.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder packet size identifier is modulated using a modulation scheme based on the first data transmission rate.

- 1 9. The method of claim 7 comprising the additional step of:  
2 prior to the step of transmitting the first encoder sub-packet, transmitting a rate  
3 indication message to a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended  
4 indicating the first data transmission rate.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:  
2 adding an encoder sub-packet format identifier to the first encoder sub-packet  
3 indicating a first format of the first encoder sub-packet.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 comprising the additional step of:  
2 transmitting the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder sub-packet format  
3 identifier at the first data transmission rate.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder sub-  
2 packet format identifier is modulated using a modulation scheme based on the first data  
3 transmission rate.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11 comprising the additional step of:  
2 prior to the step of transmitting the encoder sub-packet, transmitting a first rate  
3 indication message to a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended  
4 indicating the first data transmission rate.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:  
2 prior to the step of puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder  
3 packet, receiving a first rate indication message from a receiver to which the encoder  
4 packet is intended indicating a data rate based on first channel conditions measured at the  
5 receiver.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 comprising the additional step of:  
2 ~~determining the first data transmission rate using the data rate indicated in the~~  
3 ~~first rate indication message.~~

- 1 16. The method of claim 15 comprising the additional step of:

2 transmitting a new rate message to the intended receiver indicating the first data  
3 transmission rate.

1 17. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional steps of:

2 receiving a NACK message indicating that a transmission of the encoder sub-  
3 packet was not successfully received at a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet  
4 was intended; and

5 puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder packet to produce a  
6 second encoder sub-packet having a second size based on a size of the encoder packet  
7 and a second data transmission rate at which the second encoder sub-packet is to be  
8 transmitted.

1 18. A method of receiving a data transmission comprising the steps of:

2 receiving at a receiver a message indicating a first data transmission rate;  
3 receiving a first encoder sub-packet with a first encoder packet size identifier  
4 indicating a size of the first encoder sub-packet; and  
5 decoding the first encoder sub-packet using the first encoder packet size  
6 identifier and the first data transmission rate.

1 19. The method of claim 18 comprising the additional step of:

2 transmitting a negative acknowledgement message and a rate indication message  
3 if the first encoder sub-packet can not be successfully decoded, wherein the rate  
4 indication message indicates current channel conditions at the receiver.

1 20. The method of claim 19, comprising the additional steps of:

2 receiving a message indicating a second data transmission rate;  
3 receiving a second encoder sub-packet with a second encoder packet size  
4 identifier indicating a size of the second encoder sub-packet; and  
5 decoding the second encoder sub-packet using the second data transmission rate,  
6 the second encoder packet size identifier and the first encoder sub-packet.

1 21. A method of receiving a data transmission comprising the steps of:

2 receiving at a receiver a message indicating a first data transmission rate;

3 receiving a first encoder sub-packet with a first encoder sub-packet format  
4 identifier indicating a format of the first encoder sub-packet; and  
5 decoding the first encoder sub-packet using the first encoder sub-packet format  
6 identifier and the first data transmission rate.

1 22. The method of claim 21 comprising the additional step of:  
2 transmitting a negative acknowledgement message and a rate indication message  
3 if the first encoder sub-packet can not be successfully decoded, wherein the rate  
4 indication message indicates current channel conditions at the receiver.

1 23. The method of claim 22, comprising the additional steps of:  
2 receiving a message indicating a second data transmission rate;  
3 receiving a second encoder sub-packet with a second encoder sub-packet format  
4 identifier encoder sub-packet indicating a format of the second encoder sub-packet; and  
5 decoding the second encoder sub-packet using the second data transmission rate,  
6 the second encoder sub-packet format identifier and the first encoder sub-packet.